been imported with a view to prevent misutilisation of imported "crude drugs" for the manufacture of consumer items other than Ayurvedic and Unani medicines.

No separate statistics relating to export and import of herbs are maintained.

Export of Pepper

*191. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :
SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of pepper exported during the last three years, yearwise and country-wise;

(b) what has been the surplus left in the country after the export, each year;

(c) what had been the internal consumption of pepper during this period, each year;

(d) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a steep fall in the prices of pepper in the market;

(e) whether Government propose to procure pepper in order to maintain the price in the market and export them; and

(f) if not, what other steps are proposed to be taken to sustain a reasonable price for pepper in the market ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House as Annexure.
[*See* Appendix CLXVII, Annexure No. 15]

(b) and (c) The production of pepper during the last three years has been in the range of 48,000-55,000 MTs, whereas exports have been in the range of 26,000 MTs to 30,000 MTs. It can be safely presumed that the surplus left has been the internal consumption.

(d) The wholesale prices of black pepper have shown a declining and fluctuating trend as compared to the prices in the previous years

(e) Ministry of Agriculture has approved a scheme for market intervention for black pepper for implementation in Kerala through designated Central and State Agencies.

(f) Does not arise.

Steps to boost Exports

*192. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports have been showing a sluggish growth;

(b) whether there is a need to launch a vigorous drive for exploring new markets for exports;

(c) whether the involvement of Indian Missions abroad in country's export efforts are also inadequate; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to boost exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) :

(a) Exports during April-February, 1992-93 the latest period for which such data is available, have registered a growth of 2.81 per cent in US dollar terms, over the corresponding period of last year.

(b) Steps taken to develop new markets include provision of assistance for market survey, commodity research, participation in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions abroad. Besides continuing efforts to boost exports to General Currency Area countries, steps are being taken to bring about a revival of exports

to the erstwhile Rupee Payment Area and other East European Countries.

(e) No, Sir. Indian Missions abroad are actively involved in the promotion of India's economic and commercial interest, including expansion of exports and encouraging investment flows.

(d) In order to increase exports, the Government have taken major steps for liberalisation of trade which include provision of export linked imports, reduction of import licensing strengthening export incentives, removal of procedural irritants through simplification of policy and procedures, and pruning of negative list of Exports. In 1993-94 Budget, the system of market determined unified exchange rate has been introduced and customs and excise duties on many raw materials and capital goods have been reduced. The interest rate of rupee export credit has been reduced by one percentage point and the interest tax in the case of export credit from banks has been waived. Banks have been asked to ensure that export credit amounts to at least 10 per cent of their total advances by the end of June, 1993. Besides, 34 commodities have been identified as "Extreme Focus" sector for a special export thrust abroad. The Exim Policy 1992-97 has been amended to include a scheme of EOU's for Agricultural and allied sectors who export at least 50 per cent of their produce. The definition of 'manufacture' and 'capital goods' has been extended to include agricultural and allied activities.

Fall in Shrimp Exports

*193. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have analysed the causes for the fall in the quantity of shrimp exports over the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that MPEDA has been only stressing the exports of shrimp in rupee terms; and

(c) what are the reasons for the decline in the quantity of shrimp exports in the year 1992-93 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (c) Shrimp exports declined in 1992-93 to about 70894 MT valued at US $ 391.20 million from 76151 MT value at US $ 400.05 million in the previous year. The decline was mainly due to (i) poor landings of shrimps on the West Coast; (ii) sluggish demand in Japan; and (iii) Cochin port strike during Sept.,—Nov.. 1992.

(b) No, Sir, it is not true. While monitoring export performance, our promotional agencies evaluate the growth of exports in dollar terms, not just in rupee terms.

उपभोक्ता संरक्षण एजेंसियों को सुदृढ़ किया जाना

*194. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह:** क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उपभोक्ता संरक्षण एजेंसियों को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए जिला, राज्य और राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर विस्तरीय सुधार एजेंसियों की स्थापना हेतु गत वर्ष किए गए कार्यों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) इस संबंध में अब तक पूरा कर लिए गए कार्यों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री ए. के एन्टनी) : (क) और (ख) उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 के तहत, केन्द्र सरकार राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता विवाद प्रतितोष आयोग के गठन के लिए और राज्य सरकारें/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन उपभोक्ता विवाद प्रतितोष आयोगों (राज्य आयोगों) तथा उपभोक्ता विवाद प्रतितोष मंचों (जिला मंचों) की स्थापना के लिए उत्तरदायी हैं। राष्ट्रीय आयोग ने, दिसम्बर 1988 से काम करना आरंभ कर दिया है, 30 राज्य आयोग तथा 447 जिला मंच भी, राज्य तथा जिला-स्तरों पर कार्य कर रहे हैं।